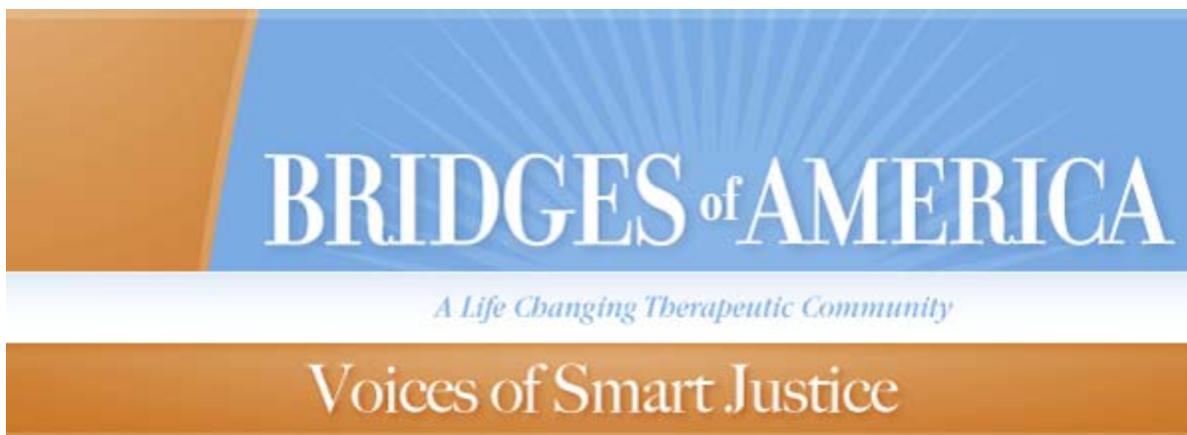


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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month we're spotlighting a few of the successful programs at our Bridges facilities. Though diverse, each is part of a comprehensive approach to preparing our clients for re-entry into society.



Bridges of America is a "Therapeutic Community," which means we take a holistic, evidenced-based approach to each man and woman who enters our facilities. Our treatment philosophy draws from the 12-step model but reaches far beyond that to include substance-abuse treatment, job and skills training, and individual and family counseling. The program is peer-driven, challenging each individual to be an active participant in their own recovery.

We're committed to giving our clients the best opportunities to change their lives and avoid making the same mistakes as they take their next steps. Just this month, our Orlando facility alone had 10 inmates complete their ServSafe certification, giving them the knowledge and training necessary to secure stable work upon their release.

This barely scratches the surface of the many exciting and life-changing programs that are going on each month. Our clients and staff serve as a daily inspiration for what you can accomplish when you commit yourself to change. And from the beginning, Bridges has been built on the belief that people can change.

Lori Costantino-Brown
President and CEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Broward County Bridge & Turning Point Bridge
Joint Career Fair
Thursday, March 8th
12:00PM - 4:00PM

The Bradenton Bridge
Employer & Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
Thursday, March 15th
5:00PM - 7:30PM

The Orlando Bridge
NS Family Fun Day
Sunday, March 18th
12:00PM - 3:00PM

TESTIMONIAL

**What The Bridge Has
Given Me...**



"I can easily state that The Bridge has changed my life. I have gotten more out of the Bridge than I can ever repay. It gave me back my confidence, it gave me back my sense of self

SPOTLIGHT

Planning Next Steps at Re-Entry Fair

The Turning Point Bridge held a successful Re-Entry Transition Fair at its site in Pompano Beach on Feb. 15. These quarterly events give clients an opportunity to learn about important services and resources they will need after their release, including acquiring identification, housing, employment, spiritual care and family support.



Our keynote speaker was Earnest Visco from the Broward Sheriff's Office, who specializes in inmate re-entry. He delivered a powerful speech to our men on the challenges and opportunities they face in rejoining society. He met with many of the men individually, giving them advice and words of support. Visco was joined with 20 community agencies, a record for involvement.

Sixty-five clients from the Turning Point Bridge Work Release and the Broward County Bridge attended the event. The information they learned will help them be better equipped when they return home to their communities.

Celebrating Black History Month... and a Birthday

Dozens of women at the Auburndale Bridge honored Black History Month by decorating their doors with art depicting important figures or moments in Black History.



The Auburndale Bridge is a 50-bed residential, Therapeutic Community for adult women with felony-level substance-abuse dependency and criminal behavior issues. Referrals come from Volusia, Brevard, Seminole, Indian River, Pasco, Lake, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The site celebrated its fifth birthday in February. Happy Birthday, Auburndale Bridge!

[Click here to see more photos and Like us on Facebook.](#)

Smart Justice in the News

["Florida TaxWatch Center for Smart Justice and the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section have a plan to](#)

and it gave me the skills I need to move on and have a better future."

Matthew Macdermid, "Mayor" and peer-leader at the Orlando TC

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promote 'pretrial justice'"

www.bridgesofamerica.com

Bridges of America is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 with the mission of changing criminal behavior through a practical, comprehensive approach that includes intensive substance-abuse counseling, parenting classes and work-release programs. Bridges' core value is a belief that people can change.

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